

\* Bring back Lotronex

**Michele Sapoff  
114 Genevieve Ave  
Hawthorne, NJ 07506  
973-427-2528**

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**Hello,**

I am a 30 year old female from NJ. I have had IBS for 11 years. When I was 19, I was in the car with a boyfriend and had to use the bathroom...IMMEDIATELY. I didn't think I could make it. After that episode, I have been scared to leave the house. Of course I have to leave, but I am always looking for the bathroom. I have canceled many engagements with friends and family, because I was scared of needing a bathroom. My family did not look at this as a real problem and didn't understand. Actually they still don't 100% yet. My family tells me if I have to go just go, they do not understand that it is painful and embarrassing. I will not go in a car with anyone except my husband, just in case I need to use the rest room. It doesn't just come out... I have cramping and I am in pain for hours before and after an episode. How can I ask a couple on our way to dinner if they can wait 2 hours while I have a diarrhea attack? Well, I don't and do not even leave the house.

I had many tests done about 10 years ago and was told it is IBS and that it was all in my head. They gave me many prescriptions, but nothing. So, I began to think it was in my head too. To add to this I am also lactose intolerant and don't like red meat, so as you can see eating is a chore too! I am about 20 lbs. over weight, because all I eat is bagels and bread (high carbs). They bind me and that's what I need. I have bought cases of Imodium over the years, but after 3 days of Lotronex I have not bought any since. OK

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OK to make a long story short, I have been asked to be in about 10 weddings and worried until they were finally over, including my own, in case I got sick and ruined someone's wedding, I have many more horror stories.

I went on vacation and my husband was annoyed cause I would not do anything without a bathroom. I promised him that when we got home I would go to the doctor. I did. Lotronex was just released and the doctor said "Michele this is your answer." I could not drive the car fast enough. After 3 days!!! I was sooooo much better. Now I used the bathroom once or twice a month instead of 3 or 4 times a day. I was going daily and it was normal.

I needed to get better for my newborn son. He is 7 months now. I didn't want him to miss out cause mommy doesn't like to go out of the house. I could not do that to him too!!! I live close to NYC and took day trips with my son and husband, I was a person again. I felt great. I went for dinner, movies, central park etc....and yes I still looked for a bathroom, but I didn't need it. YEAH!!!!

Then D day came and my husband called and said "that Lotronex was recalled and the insurance would not cover it, but I could buy it" of course...I did. It was very expensive, but worth every dime. You can't put a price on a new life. Now, I have been without for about 1 month and it got bad. My doctor prescribed a medication that I took years ago called LIBRAX CAPS along with PAXIL it is ok. I mean nothing like before with LOTRONEX.

Hey not to get all feministic here, but if this drug was for men too do you think it would of been recalled? Men have always made decisions and they effect women.

The first time I took LOTRONEX i needed one a day for about a week, after that i took 2, but why didn't the doctors of these poor women know to reduce the amount of the meds if they were so constipated?. I mean we can't forget the victims here either. Why were they not educated about their meds?

Now on the other hand Glaxo was offered to only send LOTRONEX to gastro doctors and educate everyone prescribing it. Why was that not enough?? They gave me their reasons, but they weren't good enough. I was told by GLAXO to write many people at the FDA, and then the FDA respondent called and explained the offer they made GLAXO. I think that GLAXO was not looking out for us, but their pockets. Glaxo Welcome asked me to write to Jane Henney, M.D. who is a commissioner for the F.D.A. I did and was sent an e-mail back to me. So, anyway i am ready to make a difference. I called and E-mailed everyone I could. I am sending this letter out to about 100 people to get our stories out. I actually can almost cry when I know there are other people like me out there. I feel better reading letters, knowing we can make a difference. I am usually a quieter type, but when it comes to getting back my life I have a big mouth. I have lost way to many years already for this.

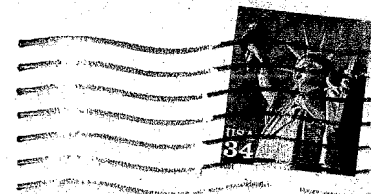
I was hospitalized a few times too and had many unpleasant procedures. Another nice person wrote to me and said that they work for GLAXO and want the drug back, but they feel it is never gonna happen. What can I do ??? What can we do??? How do people change things that are wrong?? I am a teacher, but now a stay at home mom and want to give my child his mother back.

I am sorry this is so long, but how can I put 11 years in one letter. I tried, but if you do not want to read this then just delete it. I see so many other stories that really touch my heart. Let's make a difference.

Please bring Lotronex back. My life is worth it!!!

Thank You,

Michele Sapoff



FDA  
Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers lane  
Room 1061 HFA-305  
Rockville MD 20852

LAG  
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